

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: ██████████

BOARD DATE: 12 August 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240012479

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) for the period ending 31 March 1993 to show award of the Meritorious Service Medal (One Oak Leaf Cluster).

APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING DOCUMENT(S) CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD:  
DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record under the Provisions of Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1552)

FACTS:

1. The applicant did not file within the 3-year time frame provided in Title 10, U.S. Code, section 1552(b); however, the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) conducted a substantive review of this case and determined it is in the interest of justice to excuse the applicant's failure to timely file.
2. The applicant states he received a Meritorious Service Medal, his second of his career, upon his retirement but it is not listed on his DD Form 214. Therefore, he requests to add a bronze oak leaf cluster to his other Meritorious Service Medal that is already listed on his DD Form 214.
3. He enlisted in the Regular Army on 12 March 1973 for a period of 3 years.
4. He was honorably discharged on 12 March 1975 to immediately reenlist in the Regular Army. His DD Form 214 (Report of Separation from Active Duty) shows he completed 2 years and 1 day of net active service this period. Item 26 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) does not show award of the Meritorious Service Medal.
5. He reenlisted in the Regular Army on 13 March 1975.
6. DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Record), item 9 (Awards, Decorations, and Campaigns) of his DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Record – Part II) shows: "Meritorious Service Medal – 1," indicating he was awarded one Meritorious Service Medal.

7. He retired on 31 March 1993. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 18 years and 18 days of net active service with 2 years and 1 day of total prior active service. Item 13 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations, and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) of his DD Form 214 shows award of the Meritorious Service Medal.

8. His Official Military Personnel File does not contain a DA Form 638 (Recommendation for Award) or orders awarding him a second Meritorious Service Medal nor does he provide documentary evidence showing he was awarded a second Meritorious Service Medal.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was not warranted. The Board carefully considered the applicant's record of service, documents submitted in support of the petition, and executed a comprehensive review based on law, policy, and regulation. The evidence of record shows the applicant served on active duty between 13 March 1975 and 31 March 1993. The evidence of record does not support the applicant being awarded a Meritorious Service Medal (One Oak Leaf Cluster). The Board noted the applicant provides no supporting documentation. Therefore, the Board denied relief.

BOARD VOTE:

<u>Mbr 1</u>	<u>Mbr 2</u>	<u>Mbr 3</u>	
:	:	:	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
XXX	XXX	XXX	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The evidence presented does not demonstrate the existence of a probable error or injustice. Therefore, the Board determined the overall merits of this case are insufficient as a basis for correction of the records of the individual concerned.

X //Signed//

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CHAIRPERSON

I certify that herein is recorded the true and complete record of the proceedings of the Army Board for Correction of Military Records in this case.

REFERENCES:

1. Title 10, U.S. Code, section 1552(b), provides that applications for correction of military records must be filed within 3 years after discovery of the alleged error or injustice. This provision of law also allows the ABCMR to excuse an applicant's failure to timely file within the 3-year statute of limitations if the ABCMR determines it would be in the interest of justice to do so.

2. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) prescribes Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards. All non-service awards will be announced in permanent orders. The Army does not allow self-recognition (including spouses or other family members); therefore, a Soldier may not recommend himself or herself for award of a decoration.

a. The Meritorious Service Medal is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States or any member of the Armed Forces of a friendly foreign nation who has distinguished himself or herself by outstanding meritorious achievement or service. After 16 January 1969 but prior to 11 September 2001, the Meritorious Service Medal is authorized to be awarded only for meritorious service or achievement while serving in a non-combat area.

b. For each succeeding act or period of meritorious service or achievement that justifies the award of a decoration, an oak leaf cluster or numeral device will be awarded. The exception is when decorations are presented to foreigners and posthumous awards presented to primary next of kin.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//